

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK, BG

SUBJECT: PLANS FOR INDIA-PAKISTAN-BANGLADESH REPATRIATIONS

1. SWISS EMBOFF TOLD US SEPTEMBER 7 THAT PAKISTAN SENT AIDE MEMOIRE EARLIER IN WEEK TO BOTH INDIAN AND BANGLADESH GOVERNMENTS EMPHASIZING PAKISTANI READINESS TO BEGIN REPATRIATION PROCESS IMMEDIATELY. AIDE MEMOIRE SAID PAKISTAN A) PREPARED TO RECEIVE POWS, B) COULD HAVE BENGALEE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AT EXIT POINT ON TWO TO THREE DAYS NOTICE, AND C) HAD ALREADY CLEARED 7,000 OF THE 25,000 PLUS ON FIRST LIST PREPARED BY ICRC OF PERSONS FALLING INTO DELHI AGREEMENT ACTEGORIES OF PEOPLE FOR REPATRIATION FROM BANGLADESH TO PAKISTAN. GOP REPORTED ITS INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EXCHANGE AND PRESUMED BANGLADESH SIMILARLY INTERESTED.

2. NO ANSWER YET RECEIVED FROM GOI, WHICH HAD EARLIER INDICATED THAT IT DID NOT EXPECT REPATRIATION TO BEGIN BEFORE END OF SEPTEMBER, ACCORDING TO SWISS EMBOFF. HE CONCEDED, HOWEVER
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THAT THIS PROBABLY STEMMED FROM GOI ESTIMATE OF HOW LONG IT

WOULD TAKE BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN TO GEAR THEMSELVES UP FOR EXCHANGE. (DELHI PRESS SEPT. 7 REPORTS THAT EXCHANGE UNLIKELY TO BEGIN FOR NEXT THREE OR FOUR WEEKS BECAUSE OF NEED TO FIND SHIPS AND POSITION THEM AT KARACHI AND CHITTAGONG.)

3. SWISS EMBOFF DREW ATTENTION TO DIRECT TRANSMISSION OF AIDE MEMOIRE TO BANGLADESH THROUGH SWISS. SWISS EXPECT TO HAVE TO PROVIDE REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS LINK BETWEEN ISLAMABAD AND DACCA AND ARE THEREFORE UPGRADING THEIR RADIO FACILITIES IN DACCA. MOST RECENT COMMUNICATION FROM INDIA/BANGLADESH SIDE WAS INDIAN AIDE MEMOIRE TRANSMITTING ON BEHALF OF BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT INFORMATION THAT DACCA WOULD BE EXIT POINT FOR AIR MOVEMENT OF BIHARIS AND CHITTAGONG FOR SEA MOVEMENT.

4. SWISS UNDERSTAND THAT PRINCIPLE OF SIMULTANEITY EMBODIED IN DELHI AGREEMENT MEANS THAT ALL THREE REPATRIATIONS WILL BEGIN AND END AT ABOUT SAME TIME. THEY UNDERSTAND THAT IN FACT ONLY ABOUT 100,000 BENGALLES ARE EXPECTED TO WANT TO RETURN TO BANGLADESH. OF ORIGINAL 160,000 BENGALLES IN PAKISTAN, AS MANY AS 15,000 MAY HAVE ALREADY LEFT, AND OF THE REMAINDER PREHAPS 30-40,000 WILL WISH TO REMAIN. THIS WOULD BRING NUMBERS OF BENGALLES, POWS AND BIHARIS TO BE REPATRIATED UNDER THE DELHI AGREEMENT INTO APPROXIMATE BALANCE.
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